

THE IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION



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October 17, 2003

Mr. Paul Dabbs
Statewide Planning Branch
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Dabbs:

The Irrigation Association (IA) and its membership in California are acutely aware of the often-dangerous water supply situation faced by the State. For this reason, the IA, an active member of the California Green Industry Council, is always a strong supporter of measures that help to use water more efficiently.

By this letter, I am submitting comments, on behalf of the Irrigation Association, to the most recent draft of *The California Water Plan Update*. The IA's concerns are specifically directed towards Chapter Five of the draft titled *Urban Water Use Efficiency*.

While the IA applauds most of the recommendations in this chapter, we are very concerned with the language that specifically recommends creating "California Friendly Landscapes" landscapes that thrive with minimal or no supplemental irrigation."

The goal of saving and protecting California's water supply can be accomplished not by eliminating irrigation, but rather by irrigating efficiently through the utilization of modern technologies. With the advent of smart water application technology, there are many more alternatives available for water conservation in the landscape. The balance of the draft paragraph cited above and found on page 5-174, takes these alternatives into consideration and will serve to conserve water without recommending a zero tolerance irrigation policy.

There are many ways to protect California's lush urban landscapes and parks, as well as its water supply, but eliminating irrigation is not the answer. Efficiency, not elimination is the answer.

The IA and its membership in California thank you for this opportunity to comment, and look forward to a continued dialogue.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Ali
Director, State & Affiliate Relations